

See
**Yosemite
Today**
for a complete calendar
of what's happening
in the park.

Yosemite Guide



Your Key to Visiting the Park

WINTER/SPRING 2003-2004
VOLUME XXXII, NO. 2

25¢

The Great Snowflake Debate

By Tom and Cindy Medema



Yosemite Winter
Willows
Oil on board, 11"x14"

Painting by Penny Otwell (www.yosemiteartists.org/otwell/)

Look Inside!

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I can't wait for that first snowflake. I've been told I'm odd that way, but that's how it's always been. Every fall season in memory the highlight is that first flake. Sometimes it floats by my window, other times it lands on my cheek or windshield. Wherever and however it comes, it's much more to me than a flake of crystallized water.

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YOSEMITE GUIDE

Your Key to Visiting the Park



WINTER / SPRING 2003 - 2004
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The Great Snowflake Debate

Continued from front cover

WINTER CONNECTIONS

Each time I see it, I'm transported to the backyard ice rink of my youth, lacing up skates with my dad—a passion I continue with my own kids at the Curry Village ice rink. The second flake brings similar memories of family ski outings, and anticipation of this year's adventures at Badger Pass and in Yosemite's backcountry. The third flake makes me want to dash for my snowshoes to explore the nooks and crannies of the white season. Each new flake brings renewed excitement about the winter adventures to come.

How do you react to that first snowflake? Inhabitants of snow country naturally react in one of three ways—migrate, hibernate, or tolerate. Which one describes you? Some follow the birds south to avoid the cold and “desolate”

weather. Others take the black bear approach and stay, but huddle indoors rarely venturing into the world of snow and ice. Yet others follow the example of the river otter and tolerate, even thrive in this world. It is for these hearty souls that Yosemite holds some of its finest treasures.

A fresh blanket of snow provides the opportunity to explore seemingly untrammeled places. Footpaths, signs, and fences disappear leaving you to feel as though you are the first to discover vast expanses of wilderness. Skis and snowshoes can be your conveyance, connecting you to centuries-old methods of snow travel. Today we can utilize these same tools for fun, adventure, and exploration.

From the earliest days of skiing on small Valley slopes and skating on Mirror Lake to today, Yosemite and frozen H₂O seem

to go together. What about you, will you flee the first flake? Or will you let it transport you to adventures past and present?

Sometime in spring comes the last snowflake. Unlike the first, I don't go looking for it.

SPRING REFLECTIONS

My husband, Tom, writes eloquently about his passion for cold weather and sliding around on all things frozen. But don't be fooled. Even he can't ignore the glorious rebirth of Yosemite in spring. Around the time of those last snowflakes, the dark winter hues of gray and brown concede defeat to the Technicolor of new life. Bringing with it vibrant greens, yellows, and deep blue, spring marches up from the lower elevations a day at a time.

Sure, my husband complains of putting our skis and skates into the closet, but in the same motion he returns

with hiking boots, bicycles, and no less energy for exploration.

For it is in spring that Yosemite shows its true colors. Pacific dogwood blooms along with western azalea, iris, cow parsnip, and shooting star. Redwing black birds return with their familiar trill, and the colorful western tanager reappears from a winter in Central America.

As trees bud and show their new leaves, so too does other wildlife re-emerge. Black bears wake from a winter of inactivity called torpor, cubs in tow, seeking nourishment to rebuild depleted energy stores. Mule deer browse fresh shoots with their spotted fawns close by. And squirrels it seems, like my husband, are already preparing for next winter!

As it migrates up in elevation, snow bequeaths perhaps spring's greatest treasure—flowing water. Its sound and impact are inescapable. While hiking on still-snow-covered trails, you hear it percolating beneath your feet. Walking or biking anywhere in Yosemite Valley, the perpetual thunder surrounds you and fills you with its energy. It is ever clear why John Muir called this sound the “symphony of the Sierra.”

Perhaps spring is the best of both worlds. My husband can still chase a retreating winter uphill, while I, and others like me, watch it go from the warmth and vibrancy of a reborn Yosemite Valley.



Flags Waving, Horns Blowing Spring
Oil on canvas, 22"x28"

Painting by Penny Otwell (www.yosemiteartists.org/otwell/)



The first snowflake at Badger Pass lies long buried beneath these eager young skiers.

Photo by Cindy Medema

Artist Penny Otwell lives and works in the Yosemite area where she immerses herself in its seasons of beauty. “Some people respond to my work through my use of color, but I am responding to what I feel about these remarkable places.”



Photo by Martha J. Lee

Ranger Tom Medema and his wife Cindy traded the snowy Great Lakes region for a snowy Yosemite. In winter, Tom occasionally leads snowshoe walks at Badger Pass.



Photo by David Medema

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Yosemite!

Winter in Yosemite is usually a season for quiet reflection as nature tucks in until spring. But 2004 is shaping up to be a busy time for the National Park Service here in Yosemite.

As you make your way around Yosemite Valley, you may notice construction underway related to actions outlined in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*. In fall 2003, we began removal of the dilapidated Cascades Diversion Dam from the Merced Wild and Scenic

River. In partnership with the Yosemite Fund, crews are also making progress at Lower Yosemite Fall. When completed next autumn, this improvement effort will vastly benefit the millions visitors from around the world who come to experience this Valley icon. You may also notice improved shuttle bus stops and shelters under construction in areas throughout the eastern portion of the Valley.

The nearly 250 individual improvements envisioned in the *Yosemite Valley Plan* may take as long as 20 years to complete. But today, we're taking it one job at a time. That means Yosemite Valley—and other areas of the park—will be bustling for several years to come.

Despite some temporary construction-related inconveniences, a visit to Yosemite will continue to be breathtaking, instructive, and inspirational. I hope you enjoy your visit and all of this park's incomparable beauty. At the same time, watch our work unfold, knowing that the dust we're stirring today is helping to preserve and protect this special place for generations of visitors to come.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Tollefson

YOSEMITE GUIDE

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THE CHANGING SEASONS

Special Protection for Special Places

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 3.5 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possessing weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any description or a vehicle license plate number and call 911 or contact the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. In Yosemite, pets have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads, and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of other visitors, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail, on unpaved trails, or in wilderness areas. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

WINTER/SPRING TRIP PLANNING

When planning a trip to Yosemite, keep in mind the changing seasons. The timing of your visit will determine the amount of clothing to bring, the availability of different campgrounds and parking lots, and the need for tire chains. Call road and weather information (209/372-0200) before you leave home. Here are some general guidelines:

ROADS

The Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) and Glacier Point Road beyond Badger Pass Ski Area are closed each year from late fall through spring. These roads generally close for the season with the first major snowstorm after November 1 and re-open by late May or early June, conditions permitting. The road to the Mariposa Grove is also closed in winter.



125 Years at the Wawona Hotel

2004 marks the Wawona Hotel's 125th anniversary. Upon its completion in the spring of 1879, the Victorian was deemed "the grandest hotel in the mountains of California." It is romanticized here by renowned Yosemite landscape painter, Thomas Hill, whose historic studio is located on the hotel grounds and is shown at the far left. See *Yosemite Today* for springtime anniversary events.

WILL I NEED TIRE CHAINS?

It is recommended that you carry tire chains in your vehicle (including rental and 4-wheel drive vehicles) between November and April, as a sudden storm could make them mandatory at any time. Under state regulations, any vehicle entering a signed chain control area must carry chains, even if their use is not mandatory at the time. Chains should be obtained in advance; several towns on highways leading into Yosemite rent them. Vehicles over 6,000 lbs. are required to use link-type chains; on sets of dual tires, only one tire needs chains. Once in the park, tire chains are available at retail outlets for purchase, but not for rent.

TEMPERATURE

Weather in Yosemite can change rapidly during all seasons of the year. Since areas in the park range from 2,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the lower foothills can be experiencing spring while the higher elevations remain in the grip of winter.

SNOW PLAY SAFETY

Each year sleds, toboggans, innertubes, saucers, and other sliding devices cause more injuries, on the average, than any other winter activity. Please slide safely. Sledding is not allowed in the Badger Pass area. However "snow tubing" rental and a maintained trail are now available at the Badger Pass Ski Area.

BEARS IN WINTER AND SPRING

Did you know that black bears do not truly hibernate in winter in the same way as other hibernating mammals? Rather, they descend into a deep sleep, frequently awakening and occasionally wandering around. Because of this, it's not only important—but also required by federal regulation—that you keep your food stored properly, even during winter.

KEEP BEARS WILD AND YOUR PROPERTY SAFE

Bears are attracted to many things you might not think of as food. So, always store any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes canned foods, sealed bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Each campsite in the park has food lockers measuring approximately 33"x 45"x 18".

- Never leave your food or scented items in your vehicle after dark.

- In **campgrounds and tent-cabin areas** you must store food and scented items in food lockers, day and night.
- In **hotel rooms and hard-sided cabins**, store items inside rooms (be sure to keep the windows closed if you leave).
- In **picnic areas and on the trail**, be sure to stay with food and scented items at all times.
- If you are **backpacking**, it is *strongly* recommended that you use a bear canister (they are required in some areas). Inquire about food storage requirements when you get your wilderness permit.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear in a developed area of the park or on a hiking trail, act immediately: yell or bang pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear (allow the bear a way to run away). If this is

unsuccessful, throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance; the intent is to scare the bear, not to injure it. Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it. When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away.

Report all bear incidents and sightings—as well as trash and food storage problems—to a park ranger. You can also call the Save-a-Bear Hotline at 209/372-0322.

NOTE: These regulations and precautions help decrease your chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when you follow all the guidelines. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a citation and/or impoundment of property.

DRIVE SAFELY

California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under six years of age (or under 60 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.

In winter and early spring, road conditions can change suddenly. Wet asphalt may be slippery or icy, especially in shady spots or on bridges. Keep speed down and allow extra distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Water from melted roadside snow often freezes on road surfaces, creating treacherous "black ice." This can occur even when the weather appears dry and fair.

Anticipate snowplows as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing.

Don't drink and drive. It's a fatal combination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

- Camping and campfires, see page 3.
- Bicycling rules, see page 5.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 6.
- Fishing regulations, see page 7.

KEEP YOSEMITE'S WATER CLEAN

- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for 5 minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash dishes, bathe, camp, and bury human waste (6" deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

CAMPING

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Camping reservations are available up to five months in advance, beginning on the 15th of each month.

DATE TO CALL	FOR ARRIVAL DATES THROUGH
January 15	June 14
February 15	July 14
March 15	August 14
April 15	September 14
May 15	October 14
June 15	November 14
July 15	December 14
August 15	January 14
September 15	February 14
October 15	March 14
November 15	April 14
December 15	May 14

From May through September, campsites are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call National Park Reservation Service as early as possible in the period.

Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time, beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests should include desired location, type of equipment in which you will be camping (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to—but will not be processed until—the 15th.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, **May 1 - September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite is 14 days, and only 7 of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.** Campers may request a specific campsite number if it is available at the time the reservation is made.

All campsite assignments are final—you may not switch or change campsites after you arrive in the park. **Maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.**

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are rented on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

CAMPING IN AREAS SURROUNDING YOSEMITE

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices: **Highway 120 West**, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7825; **Highway 140**, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; **Highway 120 East**, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/647-3044; **Highway 41**, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 4.

GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through National Park Reservation Service; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

SERVICES

All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food locker (33" d x 45" w x 18" h). See *Bears in Winter and Spring* on page 2 for food storage regulations.

Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only.

Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) during limited hours. See *Yosemite Today* for locations and hours of service.

RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

REGULATIONS

Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.

A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.

Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Generators may be used sparingly between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

CAMPFIRES

In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during peak visitation months, campfires are permitted May 1 through October 15 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the year.

Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes "dead and down" wood.

Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.



From December to April, the ski hut at Ostrander Lake is a haven for wilderness travelers. For reservations, call 209/379-2648.

NATIONAL PARK RESERVATION SERVICE

Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS:
800/436-7275

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:
reservations.nps.gov

You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:
301/722-1257

TTY (TOLL-FREE):
888/530-9796

MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:
National Park Reservation Service
P.O. Box 1600
Cumberland, MD 21502

Up to two campsites may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order. For more information, call the park campgrounds office at 209/372-8502 or visit online (www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm).

CAMPGROUNDS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

	CAMPGROUND	ELEVATION	MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY	NUMBER OF SITES/ SPACES	DAILY FEE*	TAP WATER	STREAM WATER (BOIL)	PETS ALLOWED (MUST BE ATTENDED)	GROCERIES NEARBY	STOCK CAMP	NOTES**
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY	NORTH PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	81	\$18/s	•		•	•		Open April-September Reservations required
	UPPER PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	238	\$18/s	•		•	•		Open All Year Reservations required
	LOWER PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	60	\$18/s	•		•	•		Open March-October Reservations required
	CAMP 4 WALK-IN	4,000'/1,200m	0	35	\$5/p	•			•		Open All Year/Walk-In First-come, first-served. Limited parking
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA Wawona Road (Highway 41) near Wawona	4,000'/1,200m	27	93	\$18/s	•		•	•	•	Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12)
	BRIDALVEIL CREEK Glacier Point Road	7,200'/2,194m	25	110	\$12/s	•		•		•	Open July-early September First-come, first-served
	HODGDON MEADOW Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120 West near the Big Oak Flat Entrance)	4,872'/1,484m	25	105	\$18/s	•		•			Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12) Group camp closed in winter
	CRANE FLAT Big Oak Flat Road, near the Tioga Road turnoff	6,191'/1,886m	17	166	\$18/s	•		•	•		Open June-September Reservations required
	TAMARACK FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	6,315'/1,924m	23	52	\$8/s		•				Open June-early September Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served
	WHITE WOLF Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,000'/2,437m	31	74	\$12/s	•		•			Open July-early September First-come, first-served Not suitable for RVs over 27'
	YOSEMITE CREEK Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	7,659'/2,333m	35	40	\$8/s		•	•			Open July-early September Five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers. First-come, first-served
	PORCUPINE FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,100'/2,468m	38	52	\$8/s		•				Open July-September RV access front section only First-come, first-served
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,600'/2,620m	55	304	\$18/s	•		•	•	•	Open July-September ½ advanced reservations, ½ same-day reservations	

*/s = per site
/p = per person

**Dates approximate

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as *Yosemite's Official Park Handbook*, published by the National Park Service, or *The Yosemite Road Guide* are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or www.yosemite.store.com.

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.



TRANSPORTATION

To and From Yosemite

THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) offers park visitors an alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transportation to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September. Daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and more information visit the YARTS web site at www.yarts.com or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589.

Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. In winter, a free shuttle bus to the Badger Pass Ski Area departs daily from Yosemite Valley. Hikers' buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers' bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

PARK LODGING (AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND)

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848, by writing to Central Reservations, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, 6771 North Palm, Fresno, CA 93704, or by visiting www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes the following:

YOSEMITE VALLEY	
Yosemite Lodge	Year-Round
The Ahwahnee	Year-Round
Curry Village (cabins & tent cabins)	Year-Round (weekends only in winter)
Housekeeping Camp	Spring-Fall
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY	
Wawona Hotel	April 1 to early January
Tent cabins at: Tuolumne Meadows Lodge White Wolf Lodge	Summer-Early Fall

Rates range from \$60 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$371 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to one year and one day in advance.

For lodging outside the park, check at regional visitor bureaus or chambers of commerce (right).

"WHAT HAPPENS TO MY ENTRANCE FEE DOLLARS?"

Thanks to the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, a temporary program approved by Congress in 1995, 80% of your \$20 entrance fee remains in Yosemite to help fund projects that improve the park and your visit.

PROJECTS COMPLETED INCLUDE:

- A significantly upgraded visitor orientation theater in Yosemite Valley
- Repaired sections of the sewer line that services Yosemite Valley
- Replacement of picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-Valley campgrounds

CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park

1 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year-round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map and scheduled Valley activities in *Yosemite Today*.

2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

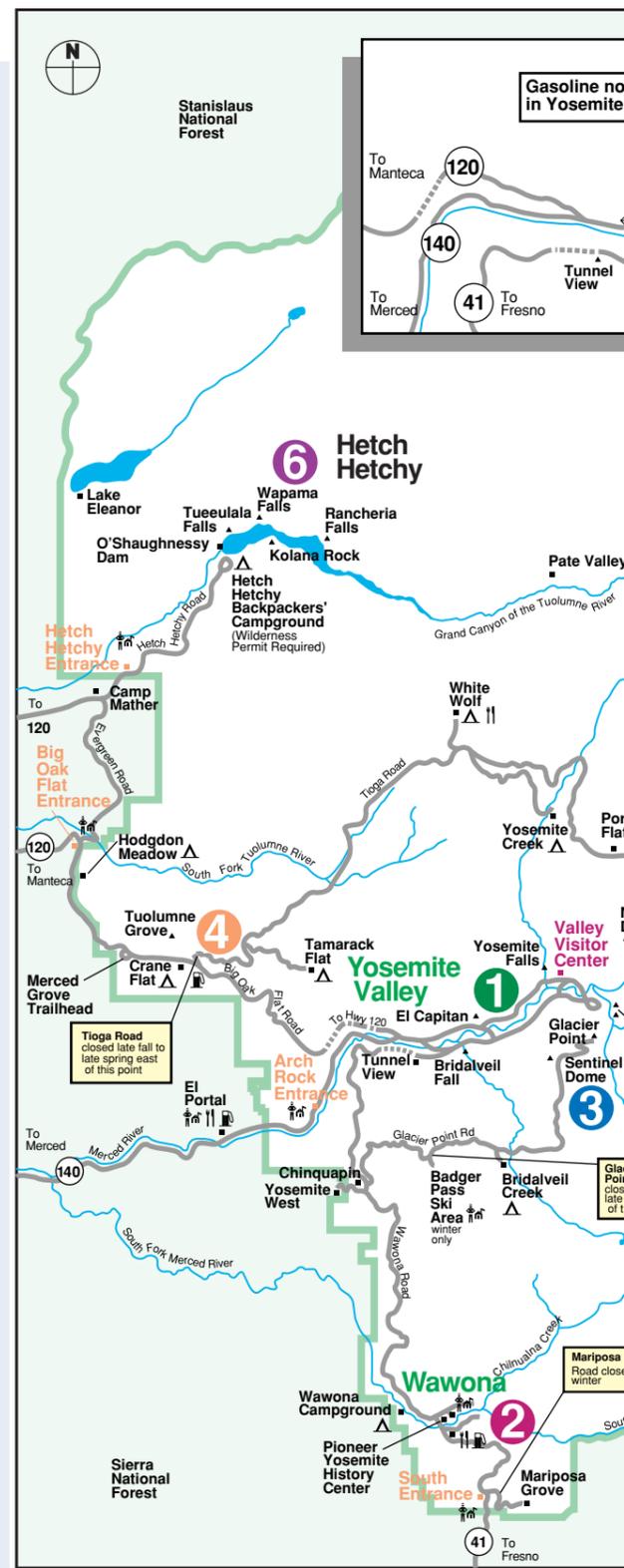
The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park's South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures printed in English, French, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road. When shuttle bus is in operation, vehicles 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the Center year-round. See *Yosemite Today* for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

3 GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a 1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Chinquapin junction, then turn left onto the Glacier Point Road. The road ends at Glacier Point. The Glacier Point Road is generally open from late spring through late fall. In winter, the road is plowed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule of activities.

AREAS TO VISIT IN YOS



INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

West Highway 120
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4020
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1333 or 209/533-4420
www.thegreatunfenced.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
41969 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-4636
www.go2yosemite.net

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coulterville, CA 95311
209/878-3074

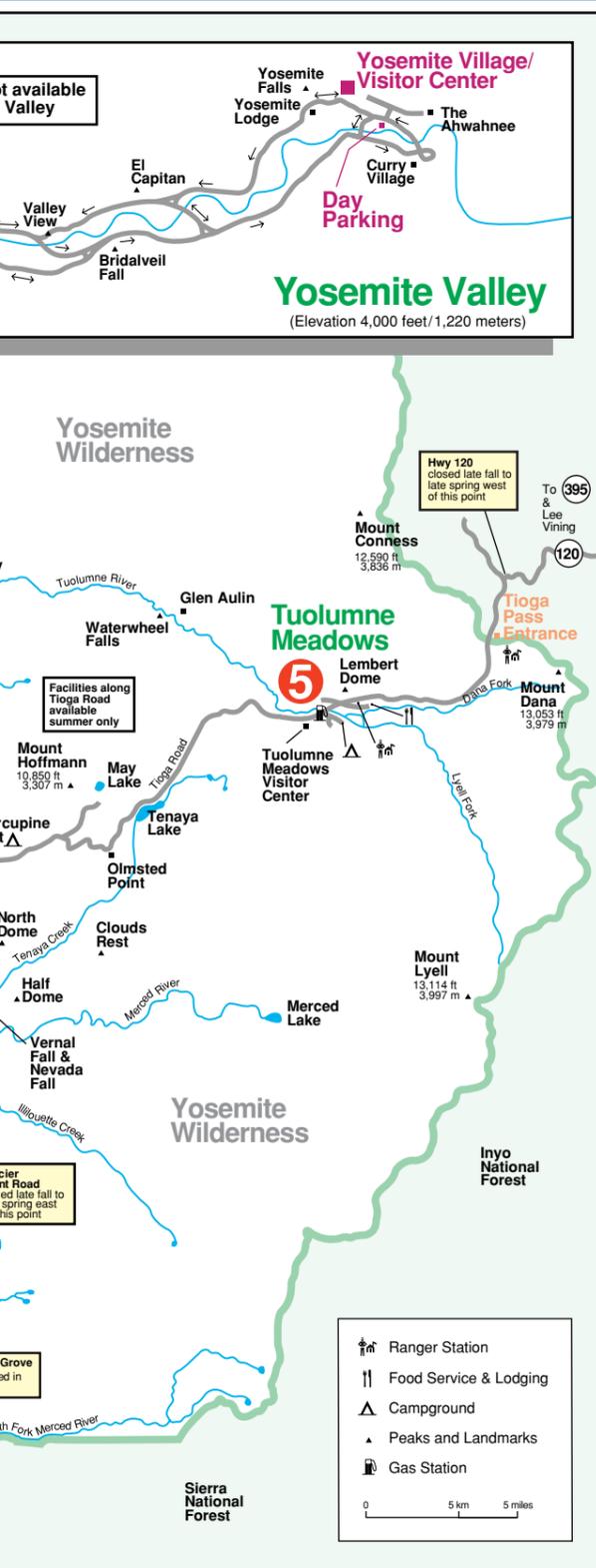
Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Bureau
(also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5158 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.homeofyosemite.com

East Highway 120
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 395 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

California Welcome Center, Merced
710 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

YOUR VISIT

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



4 CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see *Yosemite Today*.

Take a 4-mile round-trip hike or ski into the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias, located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign.

5 TIOGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

The Tioga Road is generally open from late May through late October or early November and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and park bulletin boards for updated information on available services and activities. From late fall through late spring, this area is only accessible by cross-country skis or snowshoes. For activities, see *Yosemite Today*.

6 HETCH HETCHY

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many less-used wilderness trails. Towering cliffs and high waterfalls are easily seen from the walkway on top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the road due to its narrowness.

Skiing and Snowboarding In winter, Yosemite offers downhill skiing and snowboarding at Badger Pass, located off of the Glacier Point Road. A free shuttle bus to the ski area departs daily from Yosemite Valley; see *Yosemite Today* for schedule. For ski school information and snow conditions, call 209/372-1000.

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing There are three main areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove. These areas all have marked winter trails. Badger Pass offers approximately 10 miles (16 km) of groomed track at no charge. Maps of marked ski and snowshoe trails are available at park visitor centers or through the Yosemite Association (209/379-2648 or email info@yosemite.org). For Ostrander Ski Hut reservations call 209/379-2648. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Snow Tubing The Badger Pass Tubing Area is designed for kids of all ages. \$9 per person for each session; 3 sessions per day. For more information, call 209/372-8444.

Ice Skating The Curry Village Ice Skating Rink is open from mid-November through early March, conditions permitting. Rental skates are available. For more information, call 209/372-8341.

Bicycling More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge (spring through late fall) and Curry Village (summer through late fall). Check with rental agent for restrictions on rental bike use.

Bike Rules — For your safety and to protect Yosemite National Park, please follow these rules:

- California law mandates bicyclists under 18 years of age wear helmets.
- Bikes are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (unless the road is closed to bicycle use).
- Bikes are not allowed off-road or on pedestrian and hiking trails.
- Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roads used by automobiles.

Trail Rides Weather and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour, half-day, and full-day rides depart from stables in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona, spring through fall. Call 209/372-8348 for information.

Hiking & Backpacking Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails parkwide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (spring through fall); in winter, check at the Valley Visitor Center, or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight wilderness users. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. For some ideas on Valley day hiking, as well as information about wilderness travel, see page 6.

Rock Climbing Classes The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in late spring through summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.

Get More Info...

- Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200
- Western U.S. National Parks 415/556-0560
- On the Web
 - Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
 - Guest Services www.yosemitepark.com
 - Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov
 - Regional Information www.yosemite.com
 - Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) www.yarts.com
 - Yosemite Association www.yosemite.org
 - Yosemite Bookstore www.yosemitestore.com
 - Yosemite Fund www.yosemitfund.org
 - Yosemite Institute www.yni.org/yi
 - The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com

RESERVATIONS

- Lodging Reservations 559/252-4848 TTY 559/255-8345
- Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/436-7275 TTY 888/530-9796
- Campground Reservations (International callers only) 301/722-1257

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY (4,000 FT/1,220 M)*

MONTH	PRECIPITATION (inches/cm)	MAXIMUM (F°/C°)	MINIMUM (F°/C°)
January	6.2/15.7	49/9	26/-3
February	6.1/15.5	55/13	28/-2
March	5.2/13.2	59/15	31/-0.5
April	3.0/7.6	65/18	35/2
May	1.3/3.3	73/23	42/5.5
June	0.7/1.8	82/28	48/9
July	0.4/1.0	90/32	54/12
August	0.3/0.8	90/32	53/11.5
September	0.9/2.3	87/30.5	47/8
October	2.1/5.3	74/23	39/4
November	5.5/14	58/14	31/-0.5
December	5.6/14.2	48/9	26/-3

Annual 37.3/94.7

*For temperatures at 8,000 feet (2,440 m), subtract 10-20 degrees.

PARK VISITOR CENTERS

The four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park are excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation and more information.

YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily all year. During remodeling (through spring 2004) the Visitor Center will be located in Yosemite Village between The Ansel Adams Gallery and the post office.

BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL'S STUDIO

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Closed in winter and spring; generally open summer through fall.

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

www.nps.gov/yose/trip/activities.htm

Programs and Exhibits Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, or traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), LeConte Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows (summer), and Glacier Point (summer). Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed in *Yosemite Today*.

Tours For a relaxing and informative experience, take a sightseeing tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year round), Tuolumne Meadows (summer), Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite Valley in a different light during summer months (on nights around a full moon). In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at www.yosemiteparktours.com.

ROAD INFO

Due to construction, you may experience short delays or temporary detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road information.

ON THE TRAIL



Protect Yosemite's Wilderness

2004 MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.



Yosemite is a place where nature prevails. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite's wilderness trails.



Use gas stoves for cooking rather than wood fires.



Camp in an existing campsite or on a durable surface, such as snow or decomposed granite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from developed areas of the park and at least 1 mile from any open road before camping.



To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.



Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and 8 people for off-trail travel.



See page 2 for food storage regulations and for water quality information.

EXPERIENCE THE WILDERNESS IN THE WINTER & SPRING... SAFELY

A trip to Yosemite's wilderness during the winter or spring can be extremely rewarding. But there are challenges and risks to experiencing these areas of the park when the forces of nature are at their most extreme. Sudden changes in weather, low temperatures, high winds, and dangerous travel conditions can occur without warn-



Photo by Tom Medema

Conditions can change rapidly in the Sierra. No matter what the season, always be prepared when venturing into Yosemite's wilderness.

ing. With proper planning and good judgment, the risks can be minimized, allowing you to see remote portions of the park in ways that few people do.

PLANNING AND SAFETY

If you plan to visit the Yosemite Wilderness, you should be competent in winter wilderness travel including use of skis or snowshoes, route finding, map and compass, and winter survival skills. Also, follow these general precautions:

- Be honest about your abilities. Make plans that accommodate the weakest member of your group. Be flexible; change your plans as conditions warrant. Avoid traveling alone.
- Check the weather before you come and then be prepared for sudden and unexpected changes.
- Leave a detailed itinerary with a trusted friend or family member. Include your planned start and end dates and locations as well as any known hazards. Be clear as to at what point a search should be initiated.
- Carry emergency equipment: First aid kit, fire starter, water, extra food, a signal mirror and whistle, emergency shelter, and warm clothing.
- Traveling in low temperatures and at higher altitudes can drain energy quickly. Being cold, wet, and tired can result in hypothermia, a potentially fatal condition.
- Be cautious traveling along or crossing streams and rivers. Be aware of fluctuating water levels resulting in collapsing snow bridges and weak ice.

■ Scout out river crossing locations. Never cross right above waterfalls or rapids. Consider what you will do if you fall. Release your waist strap so you can shed your pack quickly.

■ When hiking up the Valley walls, stay on existing trails. Avoid scrambling off trail along the steep faces. Falls are common on the slippery rocks and there is an increased hazard of being hit by falling rock and ice.

■ If it looks scary or dangerous it probably is.

WILDERNESS PERMITS

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. In winter, permits are issued at Badger Pass and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Stations, or by self registration at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station, and the Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio.

For wilderness trip planning information and trail conditions, stop by the Valley Visitor Center, call 209/372-0200 for recorded information, or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. To make reservations for summer wilderness permits, call 209/372-0740 no sooner than 24 weeks before your planned date of departure.

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Miwok in Yosemite is a garden path that winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum. ♿

Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area, American Indian use, and history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk 1 mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here.

The Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES

For detailed descriptions, ask for a day hikes information sheet at the Valley Visitor Center.

DESTINATION / TRAIL	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY/ ELEVATION GAIN	APPROXIMATE HIKING TIME	NOTES
BRIDALVEIL FALL	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	Paved trail; last 50' may be steep for visitors with mobility impairments
MIRROR LAKE (a seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17*	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Easy	1 hour round trip	♿ Vehicle access available via road with placard
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL (construction underway)	Lower Yosemite Fall	Shuttle Stop #6 1/2 mile round trip	(0.8 km) Easy	20 minutes round trip	Sections of trail remain open during construction
UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 3 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
TOP OF YOSEMITE FALL	Same as above	7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)	Very Strenuous 2,700' (810 m) elevation gain	6 to 8 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
MIST TRAIL OR JOHN MUIR TRAIL					
VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE	Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #16*	1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km)	Moderate 400' (120 m) elevation gain	1 to 2 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center
TOP OF VERNAL FALL	Same as above	3 miles round trip (4.8 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 4 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF NEVADA FALL	Same as above	7 miles round trip (11.3 km)	Strenuous 1,900' (570 m) elevation gain	5 to 6 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF HALF DOME	Same as above	17 miles round trip (27.4 km)	Extremely Strenuous 4,800' (1,463 m) elevation gain	10 to 12 hours round trip	Cables up from late May to early October; otherwise cable route is inaccessible
GLACIER POINT FOUR MILE TRAIL	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one way (7.6 km)	Very strenuous 3,200' (960 m) elevation gain	3 to 4 hours one way	Check conditions at Visitor Center; closed in winter and early spring
VALLEY FLOOR LOOP	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop (20.8 km) 6.5 miles half loop (10.4 km)	Moderate	5 to 7 hours full loop 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop	Get full description from Visitor Center

* Shuttle stop may not be serviced in winter. See *Yosemite Today* for route information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

See *Yosemite Today* for facilities information and hours of operation.

LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call DNC Parks & Resorts at 209/372-4357, or write DNC Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. You can also inquire by email to YoseLost@DNCinc.com

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/379-1001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, B-759, El Portal, CA 95318. You can also inquire by email to YOSE_Web_Manager@nps.gov

MISCELLANEOUS

Bear Canister Rental

Available year-round for \$5 per trip at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Crane Flat Store, and Wawona Store; available seasonally at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation. Canisters can be rented or returned at any rental location in the park.

Babysitting

Limited babysitting is available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call front desk or concierge for additional information.

Fishing

Fishing season along the Merced River is from the last Saturday in April through November 15. Special regulations apply within Yosemite National Park. Visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/trip/fishing.htm or ask at any visitor center. State regulations can be found online at www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing

Kennel

(Spring through fall, weather permitting)

Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 209/372-8348

Employment Opportunities

Would you like to be part of Yosemite's future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Volunteers in Parks, and DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

For online vacancy information: www.nps.gov/yose/jobs

Employment hotline: 209/372-0200 follow the phone tree: 4-5-1

To contact the Yosemite National Park Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write: Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project. www.nps.gov/yose/support/volunteer.htm

DNC PARKS & RESORTS AT YOSEMITE

For employment opportunities with the park's main concessioner, stop by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite general offices in Yosemite Village or call 209/372-1236. www.yosemitepark.com

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



NPS EDUCATION BRANCH

Educational outreach and information for teachers. Wawona Education Office, P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 95389, 209/375-9505, www.nps.gov/yose/education. For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206, or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/trip/waivers.htm



YOSEMITE INSTITUTE

Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for school groups, teachers, and other groups. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite, CA 95389. 209/379-9511 www.yni.org/yi



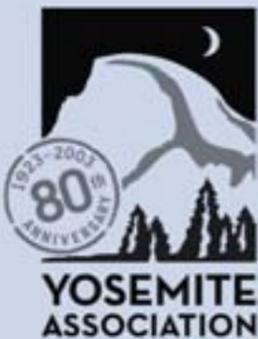
YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Outdoor Adventures are offered year-round in natural history, art, backpacking, photography, and more. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 www.yosemite.org

February 27-29	A Weekend with Author, Nevada Barr
March 13-14	Winter Explorations with a Ranger
April 23-25	Yosemite Birding Festival
May 9	Women of Yosemite: A Mother's Day Celebration
May 28-30	Art in the Ancient Forest, Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Call for a complete catalog or check online.

BECOME A MEMBER



Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. Since 1923, the Association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service, and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

Memberships of \$35 or more entitle you to receive a free "thank you" gift along with other benefits, including discounts on Yosemite Association and The Ansel Adams Gallery merchandise, lodging discounts, a quarterly journal, and much more.

To join, inquire at park visitor centers or contact the Yosemite Association, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2646 www.yosemite.org

SUPPORT YOUR PARK



THE YOSEMITE FUND

The Yosemite Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite. Thanks to gifts from dedicated "Friends of Yosemite," the Fund has distributed over \$25 million for more than 150 projects that would otherwise not be possible. The Fund has helped restore meadows, rebuild trails, install over 2,000 bear-proof food lockers, and is providing \$12.5 million to transform a visit to Lower Yosemite Fall.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of \$35 or more receive a discount on Yosemite accommodations, access to a special park accommodation reservations hotline, the Fund's full-color biannual magazine, and acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center. Contact The Yosemite Fund, P.O. Box 637, Yosemite, CA 95389. 800/4MY-PARK, www.yosemitefund.org

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Information is also available online at www.nps.gov/yose/pphtml/accessibility.html. Alternative formats may be available upon request. Phone NPS accessibility coordinator Don Fox at 209/379-1160 or send an email to Don_Fox@nps.gov.

Wheelchair rental is available at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4637, and in spring at the Yosemite Lodge bike rental stand, 209/372-1208. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

The Golden Access Passport waives entrance fees for blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Inquire at entrance stations or visitor centers in the park.



A temporary access placard is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Displayed on the windshield, it allows driving on paved roads normally closed to vehicle traffic.



Designated parking spaces are marked throughout the park with the international access symbol.

In Yosemite Valley

- Valley Visitor Center—Take Southside Drive past Chapel to stop sign. Turn left over bridge onto Sentinel Drive. At stop sign, turn left on Northside Drive and follow the signs with . Turn right on Village Drive. A few close-in spaces are available near Yosemite Museum.
- When weather permits, park in the day-visitor parking area at Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus. All shuttles in Yosemite Valley are lift equipped.



Audio description devices and closed captioning are available for the film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, shown daily in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater. Assisted listening devices may be available for some National Park Service interpretive programs. Check at the Valley Visitor Center.



TTY phones are available for visitor use at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. TTY pay phones are also available outside the Curry Village registration area, inside the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and at The Ahwahnee in the mezzanine area.



With advance notice, Nanette Oswald, Yosemite's Deaf Services Coordinator, interprets ranger-led activities and provides park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors in spring through fall. For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0642 (voice). For a listing of accessible interpretive programs, look for the international symbol in *Yosemite Today*. See page 5 for TTY reservation numbers.

 Roadway
 Shuttle Bus Only
 Shuttle Bus Stop
 Trailhead
 Hiking Trail
 Bike Path
 Campground
 Picnic Area
 Restroom
 Limited Parking
 Accessible Parking
 Map not to scale 



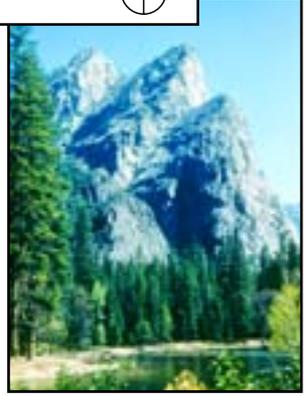
Visitor Center
 Located in Yosemite Village. Park and walk or take the free shuttle bus.

PARK HERE
 when weather permits

- From the Valley take Southside Drive (one way)
- Just beyond Chapel, turn left at the stop sign onto Sentinel Drive
- Drive over bridge; at stop sign, turn right
- PARKING AREA is located on Northside Drive

 **Park and Ride The Free Shuttle Bus**
 See *Yosemite Today* for schedule and route.

ROAD INFO
 Due to construction, you may experience short delays or temporary detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road information.



Shuttle bus service to Happy Isles Loop Road closed in winter. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.

Detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 6 for Valley day hike descriptions.